

Appl. No.: 09/666,866

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Page 2

37. (New) The stent of claim 36 wherein each serpentine circumferential band comprises a plurality of interconnected struts, the interconnected struts having a length, the length of the struts of the serpentine circumferential bands at each end of the stent being different than the length of the struts of the serpentine circumferential bands positioned therebetween.

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39. (New) The stent of claim 36 wherein each serpentine circumferential band comprises a pattern of interconnected struts, the pattern of at least one circumferential band being different than the pattern of adjacent serpentine circumferential bands.

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40. (New) The stent of claim 36 wherein the stent is expandable from an unexpanded state to an expanded state and each serpentine circumferential band comprises a pattern of interconnected struts, in the unexpanded state at least a portion of the interconnected struts being parallel to one another.

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41. (New) The stent of claim 36 constructed and arranged to be self-expanding.

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42. (New) The stent of claim 36 constructed and arranged to be balloon expandable.

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43. (New) The stent of claim 36 wherein the stent is constructed from a shape memory material.

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44. (New) A stent comprising:
a plurality of adjacent serpentine circumferential bands, each of the serpentine circumferential bands having a plurality of end portions; and
a plurality of connectors, each connector joining two adjacent serpentine circumferential bands, each connector having a first end and a second end and a portion extending at an oblique angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the stent, the first end extending from an end portion of one of the serpentine circumferential bands, the second end extending from an end portion of a serpentine circumferential band adjacent thereto.

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45. (New) The stent of claim 44 wherein each serpentine circumferential band comprises a plurality of interconnected struts, the interconnected struts having a length, the length of the struts of the serpentine circumferential bands at each end of the stent being different than the length of the struts of the serpentine circumferential bands positioned therebetween.